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Harrington Urban District

ESTIMATED POPULATION	4,567
AREA	2,844 Acres.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

YEAR 1925.



COCKERMOUTH:

"TIMES" PRINTING WORKS, SOUTH STREET.

1926

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Harrington Urban District.

April, 1926.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1925. The report for 1925 is a survey report, and deals with,

- (a) The measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of the Public Health ;
- (b) The extent and character of the changes made during that period in the public health services of the area (e.g., housing, water supply, sewerage, scavenging, and refuse disposal, and other services affecting the environment of the inhabitants).

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	2644
Population (census 1921, and estimated 1925—	4662 (4567)		

PHYSICAL FEATURES and General Character of the Area.

A small seaport and a parish extending for $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles along the sea coast. The greater number of the inhabitants live in Harrington, but 2 miles south, at the end of the district lies Lowca village consisting principally of colliers' houses and some farms. Soil is sandy, and in places clay ; subsoil—stone and coal.

The climate is temperate, the prevailing winds being south and west, and being well sheltered by the high lying land from the north and easterly winds.

Number of inhabited houses (1921)	...	846
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)		840
Rateable value	...	£23000
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£91

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, Etc.

The greater number of our inhabitants are employed at Collieries, and Iron and Steel works. There is nothing prejudicial to health in any of these employments, except the usual exposure to heat, cold and wet weather that these workers have to contend with.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	Males	Females	
Births	{ Legitimate	98	51	47	} Birth rate ... 22.1
	{ Illegitimate	4	1	3	
Deaths	...	54	28	26	Death rate 11.8
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age :					
Rate per 1000 births		...	Total, 6. Males, 5 ; Females, 1		
			Infantile Death rate, 58.		
Number of women dying in, or in			{	From Sepsis	1
consequence of, childbirth		...		From other causes	0

Table showing Birth, Death, and Infant Mortality Rates
for the past five years.

		Birth rate		Death rate		Infant Mortality
1920	...	33.7	...	14.6	...	80
1921	...	30.0	..	13.2	...	89
1922	...	25.4	...	11.4	...	86
1923	...	21.3	...	12.1	...	56
1924	...	20.3	...	9.8	...	86
1925	...	22.1	...	11.8	...	58
Cumberland ...		18.9	...	13.4	...	85
Urban Districts		19.7	...	14.3	...	95
Rural Districts		17.8	...	12.4	...	71
England and Wales		18.3	...	12.2	...	75

There has been no special cause of sickness or invalidity in the district during the past five years.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDIZED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Tuberculosis	...	Blencathra Sanatorium
Maternity	...	Nil
Children	...	Nil
Fever	...	Galemire Joint Isolation
Other. Smallpox	...	Derwent Joint Hospital

None of the above Hospitals are in our area, but are available for the district, and are supported partly by the Council.

There are no General Hospitals in the district, but the great majority of the inhabitants subscribe to the Workington and Whitehaven Infirmaries.

There is no Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers and illegitimate infants in the district.

There is one Institution in the District for homeless children, viz.: for the Roman Catholic children of the Whitehaven Union, which is maintained by the Whitehaven Board of Guardians, in whose Poor Law District we are.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Infectious Cases	...	Motor Ambulance
Non-Infectious Cases	...	Motor Ambulance
Accident Cases	...	Works Ambulances

Clinics and Treatment Centres.	Situation.	Provided by
Maternity and Child Welfare	Whitehaven	County
Day Nurseries	Nil	
School Clinics	Whitehaven	County
Tuberculosis	Whitehaven	County
Venereal	Whitehaven	County

STAFF ENGAGED ON PUBLIC HEALTH WORK.

1. The Medical Officer of Health.
2. The Sanitary Inspector.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

- (a) General. This is carried out by two District Nurses, provided by voluntary subscriptions, managed by Local Associations and affiliated with the County Association.
- (b) For Infectious Disease. There are none such in the district.

Midwives.—There are two trained Midwives practising in the district, and are supplied by the Local Associations.

One of the Nurses is stationed in Harrington, the other in Parton. The latter works the Lowca part of our District.

Chemical Work.—Any such is done by the County Analyst.

Bacteriological.—By the Clinical Research Association.

Lists of Adoptive Acts, Bye laws and Local Regulations relating to the Public Health, in force in the District.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.

The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907, per County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—This period has been a most important one in regards to our water supply. After long years of shortage, muddiness, intermittency, and all evils attending on a supply which had to be pumped from Stainburn, where we received it from the Workington Corporation. We, in conjunction with the Whitehaven Rural District Council, have now got a supply of water sufficient for our present and future needs. A constant supply and with far more pressure than is needed to reach the highest part of the district. The source is from Owsen Fell, Lamplugh, with no possible means of contamination at its source. Admirable for domestic and drinking purposes. With the exception of a few outlying farms, all the district is directly supplied from our mains.

Milk Supply.—This has not changed during the past five years. The district is supplied by local farmers and milk sellers, and most of the supply is derived from within the district. The quality of the milk is good, distribution and supply ample.

Sewerage —This is satisfactory, as the greater part of the district discharges its sewerage into the sea. Lowca sewerage is discharged into tanks at Low Lowca. As this part of the district is developing, this system will have to be remodelled if the extension goes on any further than is at present contemplated.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

W.C's.—820; Privies—6; Earth Closets—17.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE REMOVAL.

This is satisfactory, and carried out by contractors.

House Refuse. Until one can make all the utensils used for this purpose uniform and supplied with lids, that is sanitary bins, it cannot be considered satisfactory, as whilst awaiting removal the various articles used as repositories for this purpose are exposed to all sorts of weather, and other unforeseen circumstances.

FOOD INSPECTION.

No special arrangements are in force as regards food inspection.

SCHOOLS.

The schools are under the control of the County Council.

They are all in good sanitary condition, and with an ample water supply.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

- (a) The number and nature of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector during the year: 129.
- (b) Number of notices served during the year:
Statutory—5 ; Informal—120 ;
- (c) The result of the service of such notices—125 houses put into a reasonably sanitary condition.

We have no public lodging houses, or offensive trades in the district.

Systematic inspections of various parts of the district were carried out during the year. Any defects or nuisances discovered were remedied.

We have no factories in the district. The workshops and workrooms have been inspected during the year and are in a satisfactory condition.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

Total (a) including numbers given separately under (b)	8
(b) with State assistance, under the Housing Acts :	
(i.) by the Local Authority	... nil.
(ii.) by other bodies or persons	... 8

(I.) General housing conditions in the area.

(a) General housing conditions :

- (i.) The general housing conditions of the district are very fair. There are a number of houses, old property, in the Town, about 200, which need frequent supervision to keep them up to standard.
- (ii.) Shortage. In Harrington itself I cannot say that there is a serious shortage of houses, but what one would like, would be to see new property built to replace some that need demolition.

In Lowca there was an undoubted shortage of houses, due to a great extent to the opening up of new collieries. This will, to a great extent, be relieved when the 50 new houses now in course of erection there are completed, which will be in August, 1926.

Fitness of Houses. The sanitary condition of all the houses is good, all having their own water supply, W.C., and drainage system. A list of the various defects found and remedied, is given in your Sanitary Inspector's report. Most of these defects are due to ordinary wear and tear in old property. It is satisfactory to state that any nuisances and defects found were immediately remedied on request by the responsible parties.

Unhealthy Areas—Nil.

A table regarding unfit dwelling houses, their inspection, etc., is given in your Sanitary Inspector's report.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 18 persons within the district who are registered under the Dairies and Cowsheds Orders. The supply of milk is ample, and the distribution satisfactory.

MEAT SUPPLY.

There is only one slaughterhouse in the district, to which frequent visits of inspection are made by your Sanitary Inspector.

BAKEHOUSES, WORKSHOPS & WORKROOMS.

These are kept in a satisfactory condition. The sanitary arrangements are sufficient, and kept in good order.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

The prevalence of notifiable infectious disease during the past 5 years, in numbers has been most satisfactory, the number of cases notified being:—

1921—31	1922—11	1923—11	1924—5	1925—12.
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These figures are exclusive of Tuberculosis.

Accounting for the increased number in 1921, was a small epidemic of diphtheria and scarlet fever. The figures speak for themselves, in an industrial district with a population of 4567.

Arrangements have been made for all Pathological and Bacteriological examinations to be done by the Clinical Research Association.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied to all cases on request.

Methods of Disinfection :—

- [a] Premises : Fumigation with Formaldehyde and sulphur.
 [b] Clothes, etc. : Disinfectants.

All houses in which a case of infectious disease has occurred are supplied with an ample supply of dry and liquid disinfectants.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING YEAR 1925.

Disease.		Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	...	0	0	0
Scarlet fever	...	11	9	1
Diphtheria	...	1	0	1
Enteric Fever	...	0	0	0
Puerperal fever	...	0	0	0
Erysipelas	...	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...								
1 ...								
5 ...	1	1						
10 ...	1		1		1			
15 ...			1		1		1	
20 ...	1							
25 ...	1	1						
35 ...		1		1				
45 ...	1				1	1		
55								
65 and upwards								

All the Deaths due to Tuberculosis had been notified. The notification of Tuberculosis in the district is satisfactory.

 ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

Inspections : Workshops (including workshop laundries) 12
 „ Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises) 15
 There were no Written Notices issued.

		Found	Remedied
Defects Found :	Want of cleanliness	1	1

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE R. CULLIN, M.O.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Council Offices, Harrington,
April, 1926.

To G. R. CULLIN, Esq.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Harrington U.D.C.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting my fifth annual report summarising the work done in my department during the past year :—

INSPECTIONS OF TOWN AND DISTRICT.

The following defects and nuisances were discovered when making inspections in response to complaints received and instructions from the Council and yourself :—

Nature of Nuisances and Defects

Water closets, Fittings out of order	...	57
Burst water pipes and defective water taps	...	5
W.C's. without water for flushing	...	9
Defective W.C. basins and joints	...	13
Defective and choked drains	...	23
Insanitary Yards and outhouses	...	3
Houses with damp walls	...	17
Eaves gutters required	...	8
Defective doors and windows	...	2
Defective roofs	...	4
Dirty and insanitary rooms	...	4
Poultry kept as to be a nuisance	...	5
Overcrowding	...	2
Delapidated W.C.s	...	2
Minor Defects	...	7
Total	...	161

These nuisances and defects were remedied with the least possible delay by the owners of the property and by the persons responsible.

Slaughter Houses

There is only one Slaughter house in the district, and this one is privately owned. It is used by four butchers and is always clean and well conducted. The drainage is good and the lime-washing is carried out as required. Frequent visits are made to inspect meat, carcasses, etc.

Dairies and Cowsheds

There are 18 persons within the district who are registered under the Dairies and Cowsheds Orders. The dairies and milk stores are kept clean and well ventilated. The cowsheds are in a normal state and limewashing is attended to regularly.

Bakehouses, Workshops, and Workrooms

The Bakehouses, Workshops and Workrooms in the district are quite satisfactory. They are always kept clean, and the lime-washing is carried out as required. The sanitary arrangements are sufficient and in good order.

Infectious Diseases

Inspections of houses, where cases of infectious diseases have occurred, have been thoroughly carried out in accordance with your instructions. The rooms occupied by the patients were thoroughly and expeditiously fumigated and disinfectants supplied in each case.

Housing

Number of houses erected during the year :

(a) Total (including Nos. given separately under (b)	...	8 houses
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :		
(i.) By the Local Authority	...	nil.
(ii.) By other bodies or persons	...	8 houses

1. Unfit Dwelling houses.

Inspections.— 1 Total No. of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	129
(2) No. of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts	...	...	23
(3) No. of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	nil.
(4) No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	125

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :

No. of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	120
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3. Action under Statutory Powers :

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
--	-----	-----	---

(2) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :			
--	--	--	--

(a) By Owners	...	...	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	nil

(3) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations to the owners of intention to close	nil
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B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
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(2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—			
--	--	--	--

(a) By Owners	...	...	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15, Housing Act, 1925			nil
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Unhealthy Areas

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to improvement schemes under Part I or Part II of the Act, 1899	...	Nil
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I beg to remain, Sir,

Yours obediently,

E. E. WHITLEY,

Surveyor and Inspector.

Staff engaged on Public Health Work :—

(1) The Medical Officer of Health.

(2) The Sanitary Inspector.

The former carries out inspections and advises Council when necessary.

The Sanitary Inspector makes systematic inspections and reports to the Council and to the Medical Officer of Health.

